

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action of December 9, 2008. With this response, all pending claims 1-53 are presented for reconsideration and favorable action.

In the Office Action, the rejection against the claims based upon Eryurek (US 6,017,143) in view of Flaemig (US 7,054,765) and Sederlund (US 6,647,301) was maintained. However, it is believed that the claims are patentably distinct from these references.

All of the pending claims describe a device which is configured to retrofit a process device with a safety response module. Element 12 shown in Figure 1 of Eryurek is identified as providing a “retrofit monitoring device.” However, element 12 is simply a test instrument which is used to couple to a two wire process control loop. This is described as a “communicator 12.” As illustrated in Figure 1 of Eryurek ‘143, the communicator 12 does not couple to a process device. Further, communicator 12 does not retrofit a process device. Therefore, the rejection should be withdrawn.

Further, as noted in the previous response, none of the references show providing a safety response module within a process device. Sederlund simply shows performing safety response at an overall system level.

Additionally, claim 36 states that the device interface, component monitor and safety module are all implemented in the feature module which couples to a sensor module and retrofits a transmitter. This is not shown by any of the cited references, either alone or in combination. None of the references describe a feature module which couples to a sensor module to retrofit a transmitter.

As all of the claimed elements are not shown by the cited references, it is believed that the rejection should be withdrawn. Reconsideration and favorable action are respectfully requested.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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